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Senate

The Senate met at 2:15 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Dr. George S. Dillard III, pastor of Peachtree City Christian Church of Peachtree City, GA, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father, You are the maker of us all. You are sovereign over every nation. You are the giver of wisdom, and Your wisdom teaches all of us and most certainly our leaders in this Senate, whom I lead in prayer today.

I ask You to help them to heed Your wisdom which teaches all of us to be humble, to help them seek humility, to be honest with themselves first, then each other and then us, to be just and seek justice for all. Teach them to hunger and thirst for righteousness and not self-righteousness, to embrace repentance when they fall. Most of all, teach them to walk in integrity and not to fear accountability and most of all to seek unity and not position. Have mercy on us. Give us grace. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth, in this Nation, and in this Senate, as it is in Heaven.

Through Jesus, I lift this prayer to You, O God.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The assistant Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. It is my understanding the Senator from Louisiana has a unanimous consent request.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent to have up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I note that we are going to have some discussions between the leaders about the agenda coming up. I would like to take a few minutes to make it perfectly clear that I think one of the first steps we need to take to assure voters that we have heard the message and that I myself have heard that message is to get our work done on the floor of the Senate.

I am a centrist. I am a proud centrist. The record expresses that I am a centrist. As I have said a thousand times on the floor and 10,000 times at home, I have been part of the coalition that has helped make this place work when it did, and I have been part of the coalition that has tried to make this place work even when it didn't. The record is clear. I don't have to say more about that.

But yesterday when I arrived in Washington thinking that it would be a very good time to begin our work and came to the Senate floor, I was actually very surprised that neither leader on either side—neither HARRY REID nor MITCH MCCONNELL—was prepared to move us to a vote that is so obvious that we should do and has been obvious for a long time, and that vote is on the Keystone Pipeline.

As chair of the energy committee, I moved this out of my committee months ago—I said I would, and I did—and worked every day that I could to get this vote up on the Senate floor.

I wish to submit for the RECORD and talk for a few minutes about it because I came here at 2:00 yesterday—it has been 24 hours. What a difference 24

hours can make when a Senator is willing to stand up and speak and lead. My leadership didn't give me permission to do this. Nobody asked me to do it. And I waited for MITCH MCCONNELL and JOHN CORNYN to call for a vote on the Keystone Pipeline, and neither one of them did.

I would like to read what Leader MCCONNELL said yesterday because at 4:00 he is going to come to the floor and try to convince us he said something else. But the reporters have the RECORD, I have the transcript, and I am going to take just a minute to read it now.

I am going to get to that in just 1 second because I have it, but I am going to paraphrase it now while the staff brings it to me.

MITCH MCCONNELL came to the floor—and I was here when he spoke, so I know it pretty well—he came to the floor, and then he took a few bows for the win, and then he said there is some work we need to do in this lameduck session. He did not mention the Keystone Pipeline. It is not in the transcript. He said three things: He said something about the budget, he said something about retroactive taxes, and he said a third thing. I will read the transcript into the RECORD in just a minute.

So I waited patiently, hoping he would say something about the Keystone Pipeline since it was talked about a lot on the campaign trail last year, but he didn't. He said that he has his agenda and that it was clear there were a few things we had to do in the lameduck, but the Keystone Pipeline wasn't one of them. So I was disappointed.

I had to wait for the second leader on the Republican side, JOHN CORNYN, to speak. There is a likely transcript that he has—here it is. Here is the McConnell transcript. This is what Mr. MCCONNELL said yesterday. This is 24 hours later, after this Senator stood on the floor and made some pretty pointed

• This "buller" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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